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LETTER DATED 28 MARCH 1991 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF SAUDI ARABIA TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

In accordance with paragraph 4 of Security Council resolution 678 (1990), and pursuant to paragraphs 2 and 3 of the said resolution, I have the pleasure to transmit to you herewith an additional report on the progress of the military operations carried out by the armed forces under the command of General Khalid bin Sultan bin Abdul-Aziz, commander of the coalition forces and the theatre of operations, during the period 24 February-3 March 1991.

I should be grateful if you would have this report circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Samir S. SHIHABI
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

Annex

[Original: Arabic]

Further to our letter of 26 February 1991, which contained the joint report of the coalition forces on the military operations they had carried out on land, at sea and in the air during the period 18-26 February 1991 with a view to undermining the military strength of the Iraqi forces in preparation for the overall ground campaign for the liberation of the State of Kuwait, we should like to inform you that the ground campaign on all fronts began on Sunday, 24 February 1991, lasted a mere 100 hours and ended in the rout of the Iraqi forces and thence in the acceptance by the Iraqi Government of all 12 Security Council resolutions, as well as resolution 686 (1991).

I transmit to you herewith a report on those military operations, and I should be grateful if you would have this letter circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Khalid bin Sultan bin ABDUL-AZIZ
Commander of the joint forces and the
theatre of operations

Enclosure

Additional report on military operations carried out by the forces under the command of General Khalid bin Sultan bin Abdul-Aziz, commander of the coalition forces and the theatre of operations, during the period 24 February-3 March 1991

I. Military operations

(a) In the air

1. The Air Force of the United Arab Emirates flew 91 sorties from the beginning of the air campaign.

2. The Bahraini Air Force flew 278 sorties from the beginning of the air campaign.

3. The Qatar Air Force flew 63 sorties from the beginning of the air campaign.

4. The Kuwaiti Air Force flew 792 sorties from the beginning of the air campaign.

5. The Royal Saudi Air Force flew 1,169 sorties against targets in Iraq and Kuwait.

(b) At sea

1. The Royal Saudi Naval Forces carried out naval operations, and there were 64 sea-borne missions in all.

2. Aircraft of the Royal Saudi Naval Forces completed 178 flight-hours carrying out patrols and rescue missions.

(c) On land

1. The United Arab Emirates contributed a unit estimated at brigade strength to the forces that entered Kuwait for its liberation and for mopping-up operations.

2. Bahrain contributed a unit estimated at company strength to the Saudi units that entered Kuwait for its liberation and for mopping-up operations.

3. The Syrian Arab Republic contributed an armoured division reinforced with an élite strike brigade to the overall assault operation for the liberation of Kuwait, and it is now in position and performing its functions for Kuwait's defence.

4. Oman contributed a force estimated at batallion strength to the forces that entered the City of Kuwait for its liberation and for mopping-up operations.

5. Qatar contributed a force estimated at brigade strength to the forces that entered Kuwait for its liberation and for mopping-up operations.

6. Kuwait contributed an estimated force of three brigades to the overall assault operation for the liberation of Kuwait.

7. The Arab Republic of Egypt contributed two divisions reinforced with an élite strike brigade to the overall assault operation for the liberation of Kuwait. They achieved their objectives and are participating in securing and defending the State of Kuwait.

8. The Kingdom of Morocco contributed a force estimated at regimental strength during the ground campaign to defending vulnerable locations within the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

9. Some 330 individuals belonging to the Afghan Mujahidin participated and defended vulnerable areas.

10. The Islamic Republic of Pakistan contributed a brigade to the defence of the Ar'ar area.

11. The People's Republic of Bangladesh contributed a force of one brigade, some of its units are defending vulnerable locations within the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, and their medical units are carrying out duties in treating the war-wounded.

12. The Republic of Senegal contributed a force estimated at batallion strength to the defence of vulnerable and important locations within the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

13. The Republic of the Niger contributed a force estimated at batallion strength to the forces that entered the State of Kuwait for its liberation, and it is defending the headquarters and administrative support areas.

14. The Czech and Slovak Federal Republic contributed a chemical warfare unit estimated at company strength to the forces that entered the State of Kuwait for its liberation and for mopping-up operations.

15. The Saudi armed forces contributed five reinforced brigades in the overall assault operation that began on Sunday, 24 February 1991, with the goal of liberating the State of Kuwait. They achieved their objectives and are now mopping up in Kuwait City and other towns. They stand prepared to defend the State of Kuwait and the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

II. Casualties

Country	Dead	Wounded
United Arab Emirates	6	2
Bahrain	-	2
Syrian Arab Republic	-	1
Oman	-	1
Kuwait	1	3
Egypt	10	83
Senegal	-	8 (by missiles (fragments) fired at Saffaniyah)
Czechoslovakia	-	1
Saudi Arabia	33	123

III. Prisoners of war

The total number of prisoners of war, officers and men, held by the coalition forces is 50,568. All are receiving scrupulous care, and they are being treated in accordance with the precepts of Islamic law and the provisions of the third Geneva Convention of 1949. The joint command of the theatre of operations has endeavoured to ensure that Iraqi prisoners are treated in a humane and dignified manner, in keeping with our Islamic ideals and principles. Our forces have been instructed not to engage enemy elements who lay down their arms, to deal kindly with prisoners and to provide immediate attention to those wounded. Furthermore, I met this week with the delegate of the International Committee of the Red Cross, who has visited the Iraqi prisoner-of-war camp and the Saudi hospitals that have admitted enemy wounded for treatment. He expressed great admiration for the care that he saw being provided to prisoners and for the excellent treatment accorded to the Iraqi wounded in Saudi hospitals, which, given that the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia honours its international obligations, is the same as that received by the wounded from the coalition countries.

IV. The Safwan meeting

In an endeavour to attain the fulfilment of the conditions laid down by the Security Council for a declaration of an end to hostilities between the coalition forces and Iraqi forces preparatory to the establishment of a lasting peace in the Gulf region following the acceptance by the Iraqi Government of the resolutions adopted by the Security Council, a military delegation representing the coalition forces, under the leadership of General Norman Schwartzkopf, commander of Operation Desert Storm and Supreme Commander of the United States Central Command, and of myself in the capacity of commander of the joint forces and the theatre of operations, met at Safwan on Sunday, 3 March 1991, with an Iraqi military delegation consisting of the Deputy Chief of General Staff, a senior officer and an

official of the Iraqi Ministry of the Interior so that the coalition countries could lay down the military conditions necessary for a cease-fire prior to reaching a cease-fire agreement at a subsequent stage.

The coalition delegation laid down the military conditions which, with the approval of the Iraqi side, might lead to agreement on a cease-fire. They were:

(a) Immediate release of prisoners of war, with the establishment of a times and locations for their release, and release of civilian detainees, including Kuwaitis seized by the Iraqi forces in Kuwait.

(b) Disclosure of all information relating to persons missing as a result of hostilities, and the return of the remains of those who have died in captivity or been killed in the course of military operations.

(c) Provision of full information on all minefields, booby traps and weapons that might remain in the State of Kuwait.

(d) Agreement on security and safety arrangements with a view to ensuring that there would be no accidental confrontations that might lead to a renewed outbreak of fighting. Such arrangements would guarantee the safety of all forces under the command of the Iraqi forces, including ships and aircraft.

The meeting had extremely positive results, in that the Iraqi side agreed to all the conditions laid down, bringing us to regard this as a historic meeting heralding an end to the war and the establishment of a lasting peace in the region under the new international order. I am optimistic that there will be no obstacle in the way of reaching a durable cease-fire agreement.